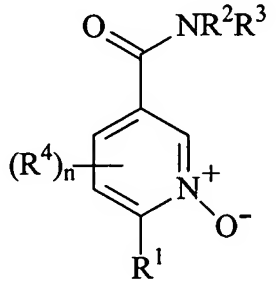
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure (I):



(I)

and optical isomers, diastereomers, enantiomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

R^1 is selected from halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, ~~substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle aliphatic ring~~, substituted or unsubstituted amino, hydroxy, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio or R^5-SO_2-, where R^5 is selected from hydrogen, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, ~~substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle aliphatic ring~~, substituted or unsubstituted amino, or hydroxy;

R^2 is hydrogen;

R^3 is substituted or unsubstituted aryl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl(alkylene);

R^4 is selected from halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, ~~substituted or unsubstituted heterocycle aliphatic ring~~, substituted or unsubstituted amino, or hydroxy; and

n is 0 or 1~~;~~

~~provided, however, that when R^3 is phenyl, R^4 can not be halogen at the 4-position of the pyridine ring~~.

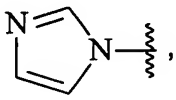
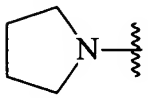
2. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is R^5-SO_2- and R^5 is selected from alkyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, carbocycle, aryl(alkylene), and carbocycle(alkylene).

6. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 5 wherein, for R^5, alkyl is C_1-C_{10}alkyl; heteroalkyl is C_1-C_{10}alkyl with 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S; aryl is phenyl, substituted phenyl, naphthyl or substituted naphthyl; carbocycle is C_3-C_8carbocycle; and alkylene is C_1-C_{10}alkylene.

7. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 5 wherein R^1 is selected from (C_1-C_6alkyl)SO_2-, $PhSO_2$-, fluorinatedphenylSO_2-, $PhCH_2SO_2$-, cyclopentylSO_2-, *m*-carboxyphenylSO_2-, *m*-methylphenylSO_2-, and HOOC-(C_1-C_4alkylene)SO_2-.

8. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from halogen, amino, hydrocarbylamino, dihydrocarbylamino, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio, ~~heterocyclyl~~, (heteroalkyl)amino, and (heteroaryl)amino.

9. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 7 wherein R^1 is selected from amino, (C_1-C_6alkyl)(C_1-C_6alkyl)amino, PhNH-, $PhCH_2NH$-,  ,  , and $HOCH_2CH_2NH$-.

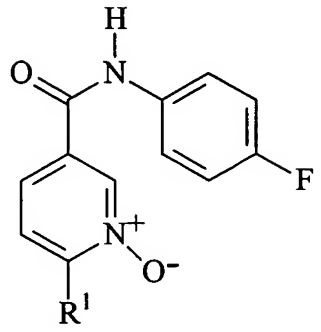
10. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 8 wherein R^1 is selected from halogen and (C_1-C_6alkyl)S-.

11. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 10 wherein R^1 is chloride.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^3 is aryl.

14. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 having the structure (II)



(II).

15. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 14 wherein R^1 is selected from (C_1-C_6alkyl)SO_2-, $PhSO_2$-, fluorinatedphenylSO_2-, $PhCH_2SO_2$-, cyclopentylSO_2-, *m*-carboxyphenylSO_2-, *m*-methylphenylSO_2-, and HOOC-(C_1-C_4alkylene)SO_2-.

16. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^3 is benzyl or phenyl, the benzyl or phenyl having 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyl, alkylamido, alkylcarbonyl, amido, benzyl optionally substituted with halogen, benzyloxy, carboxy, cyano, dialkylamido, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, oxoalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, thioalkyl, thiocyanate, and thiohaloalkyl.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

19. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(2-hydroxyethylamino)-1-oxynicotinamide.

20. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-bromo-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

21. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 5,6-dichloro-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

22. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-ethanesulfonyl-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

23. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxy-6-(propane-2-sulfonyl) nicotinamide.

24. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-methanesulfonyl-1-oxynicotinamide.

25. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-benzenesulfonyl-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

26. (Previously Amended) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxy-6-phenylmethanesulfonylnicotinamide.

27. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

28. (Previously Amended) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(4-iodophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

29. (Previously Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from halogen, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio, R^5SO_2 or substituted or unsubstituted amino, R^2 is H, R^3 is aryl and n is 0.

30. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or excipient.

31.-44. (Cancelled)